

## What Would Service to our Country Mean to Me?

..May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right." (Peter Marshall) Service comes in many different forms and fashions. Whether you are fighting on the front lines or sending a care package to someone who is, you are serving our country.

Two things that come to mind when thinking of service are sacrifice and selflessness. Service is a sacrifice of time, desire, family, and in some cases the very breath inside your lungs. As John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." These men and women exemplify this love every day. The military is also made up of selfless people who value the wants and needs of others above their own lives. They are voluntarily out on the battlefield because they care about you and I and preserving America's freedom.

However, military personnel are not the only people who should practice service towards others. All of us should serve others at home, school, and in the community. I've learned the simple act of putting away an elderly person's grocery cart can change their whole day, and it was not a hard job at all. I am sure all of us could find someone to serve each day and really it is a service to our country because this country is only as strong as its citizens.

Although I may be too young to fight on the front lines. I will never stop serving others and standing up for the freedom of all. Freedom is a precious gift: which we too often take for granted. Think about it, someone's blood was spilled so you wouldn't live under the oppression of tyranny. We live in the home of the free because of the brave, who gave their everything so we could have anything. However, they did not intend our freedom to be used for selfish gain. but for the betterment of others. Why then should we waste it?